



## Moruya's Baker

From an Interview with Jack Mylott on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1997

Phyllis Reid

John Alexander Mylott 1914 -1997

This is the story of Jack Mylott. Jack was the Moruya baker on the corner of Vulcan & Queen Streets.

The story needs to start back with Jack's grandparents. Jack's grandfather Patrick was born in 1838 in Clooncormick, County Mayo, Ireland. When Patrick first came to the Tuross area it was to work for Mort at Bodalla. Patrick married Mary Heffernan in 1864. In 1867 they got a land grant and by 1877 owned all the land at Tuross Head on which they ran cattle, and built their home on the top of the hill out of stone and granite with cedar windows and double French doors. There were eight children born in Tuross with the ninth child being born in Balmain, Sydney.

To further his daughter Eva's musical career the family moved to Sydney. (*for details of Eva's career see March 2004 issue of this Journal.*) The Tuross property was leased out and Patrick went into the wine and spirit trade in Sydney as well as having interests in shipping.

Patrick died in Tuross in 1899 having earlier returned from Sydney. After his death Mary continued to work the land with the help of their children.



Mylott property Tuross

Jack's father, Patrick James worked on Byrne's Farm at Eurobodalla and married Elizabeth Chivas Cantlay. Jack, their 4<sup>th</sup> child was born 21<sup>st</sup> March 1914, the same year his father it seems was going to head to Queensland but he unfortunately broke his leg. While he was recovering his wife found the Bakery for sale in Moruya.

The family took over the Bakery in Queen Street where they sold



not only bread, pies and cakes but groceries, fishing tackle, medicines, veterinary supplies and even dynamite. The dynamite was used by the gold miners.

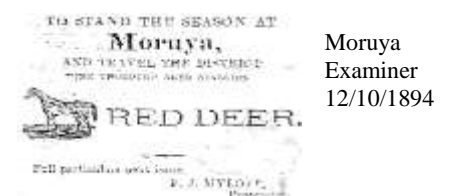
In 1931 the second bakery was built in Vulcan Street next to the Keating Hotel (where the Air Raid Tavern now stands). In 1933 they moved into the shop and dwelling on the corner of Queen and Vulcan Streets. In 1961 the grocery section was sold to Mr J. P. Sheridan. The family remained operating the bakery here until 2007 when the bakery finally closed.

Jack remembers well his time as a helper in the shop in the early days when Arnotts sold biscuits in tins. His job was putting the broken biscuits into bags to sell for 6 pence a lb. Weighing corn, pollard and ¼ bushels of potatoes

were some of his other jobs before he was old enough to be part of the bread making.

The dough took hours to hand mix in those days and Jack describes how he had to lean into the big dough troughs and mix with both arms – “not good for ones shoulders and back” he said.

Jack had many memories of horses – riding at the Shows, training race horses and racing them, “won and lost a few” he said “but had a lot of fun”. He tells a funny story of someone mixing whisky and coffee for their horse to drink and the judges smelling its breath at the Bega Cup. An important horse for the district was an Irish hack, a stallion called *Red Deer* whom his grandfather brought out from Ireland. Jack never saw the horse but he saw plenty of offspring around the district in later years.



Jack's life seems very busy. As well as being the bread maker, the Mylotts delivered the bread with a horse and cart and later a van around Moruya. They always delivered the bread to the local schools early morning, as well as the pies and sausage rolls at 12 noon ready for the lunches.



Jack was also a great runner and won many races throughout the Eurobodalla, at Cobargo and

Bombala. He won a double for which the prize money was a £100. He was taken to Stawell in Victoria and was in the final in 1935 and the semifinal in 1937.

Before WW11 Jack played football and was a winger, all 9 stone of him. He recalls the team in 1933 to 1935 was made up of Joe Clifford, Merv Rolf, Artie Bagnall, Tony McDowell, Con Manning, Jackie Burke, Davie Coppin, Tommy Shaw, Eddie Ison, Curley Ling, Jack Simpson and Ernie Cooper. There was once a window full of trophies on display at the Red Rose Café, Jack wondered what had happened to them.

During the war Jack was part of the Coast Watch Team and on call 24 hours a day. Sometimes he would have to leave the bread dough while he did his turn. Jack was also part of a 6 piece jazz band playing for dances with Jack Gillett. Coming from a musical family, Jack had learnt to play the Saxophone and was by all accounts very good.

Jack can remember the following shops in Moruya around this time. There was Clarrie Chesher, Emmotts, Christy Johnston was where the paper shop now is, it was a general store and paper shop back then. Weatherby owned the garage on one corner and the chemist shop was opposite. Isons and Naders were also there somewhere. The commercial hotel, now the Monarch, was owned by J.J. King

Jack met his wife Joyce Turnbull while delivering bread. Joyce's family had originally lived at Araluen. Theirs was the first house on the right as you come into Araluen from Moruya. At the time of the interview the house was still standing. Joyce remembers her family always having a meal and a bed for anyone who came to visit. The Rankins of "Cannollie" and the Georges from Bendethera were

always welcome. The family moved from Araluen to a dairy farm at Mullenderry which was run by her father and in later years by her brothers Jim and John. Joyce worked as a secretary for the Eurobodalla Shire Council in the old council building in Campbell Street.

Jack and Joyce married in 1946, the year "Russia" won the Melbourne Cup and the year his father died. Jack and Joyce moved in with his mother in the dwelling above the shop. They had five sons and by 1997 16 grandchildren.

Jack said he had no regrets, he had worked and raised his family and always treated his friends how he would like to be treated. When asked what made him angry one recurring event sprang to mind, "the power being cut off in a storm when he was in the middle of doing the dough." They just had to put the dough in a trailer and throw it into the Moruya River. The dough acted as burley and plenty of fish were caught after such an event. The locals were so pleased they often brought fresh fish to the bakery as a thankyou.

Jack and Joyce were always part of the Sacred Heart Church in Moruya as was his father and his grandfather.

Jacks philosophy in life was "to keep the commandments and to do unto others as you would like to be done by"

*Jack tells us about the football trophies won but I am sure we all remember those trophies and show ribbons on show proudly in Bakery until its closure. Editor*



## Snippet from the Past

*The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List. Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> 1857*

### A Wreck. Moruya April 14<sup>th</sup>

"Mr John McAlister, our active chief constable, having received information, on the night of Thursday last, that fragments of a wreck were seen floating about between the mouths of the rivers Moruya and Tuross, proceeded early on the morning of Friday to that place, and found on the beach a figurehead in the shape of a woman, as large as life: also, part of a deck, which seemed to have been hurriedly sawn from both sides in order to make a raft, with holes cut in it, evidently for the purpose of lashing. From the dimensions of the parts washed ashore, Mr McAlister thinks the vessel's tonnage must have been about 500. From the timber all pine he has no doubt she was an American, and from the appearance of the timber, but particularly the nails, he says she could have been long afloat. The ends of several of the planks were charred."

### Answers to the Crossword Across

1. Coppery, 5. Taper. 8. Martin Keating. 9. Smith. 10. Lantana. 11. Emmott. 12. Mantle. 15. Ninepin. 17. Rural. 19. Charles Harpur. 20. Style. 21. Notices.

### Down

1. Camps. 2. Parliamentary. 3. Epithet. 4. Yokels. 5. Twain. 6. Philanthropic. 7. Regrade. 11. Eunuchs. 13. Abreast. 14. Unison. 16. Pulse. 18. Lares.